

Activity Summary

Activity: State Conservation Grants Administration
FY 2002 Enacted: \$4.000million

Program Component	2002 Enacted	FY 2003			Change From 2002 (+/-)
		Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
State Conservation Grants Administration	4,000	0	+1,400	5,400	+1,400
Total Requirements	4,000	0	+1,400	5,400	+1,400

Authorization

16 U.S.C. 460l et.seq. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965, as amended

Overview

The **State Conservation Grants Administration** activity administers previously awarded and new grant projects in cooperation with State partners so as to ensure accountability and compliance with site conservation and public access mandates.

Applicable National Park Service Mission Goals

- IIIb** Through partnerships with other federal, state and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, a nationwide system of parks, open space, rivers, and trails provides educational, recreational, and conservation benefits for the American people.
- IIIc** Assisted through Federal funds and programs, the protection of recreational opportunities is achieved through formal mechanisms to ensure continued access for public recreational use.

FY 2002 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments

The State grants administrative account covers expenses associated with two main program functions: one fixed - the other variable - workload determined by whether new grant funds are appropriated, and the size of such appropriation. The \$140 million grant program in FY 2002 nearly doubled from the previous year's appropriation of \$89 million. Overall grant workloads include increases in the administration of an estimated 500 new grants approved during the last two fiscal years. Tasks also include providing technical assistance to States in updating and or developing their new outdoor recreation plans, training NPS and State staff, and conducting onsite reviews of potential recreation sites to ensure compliance with program requirements.

In addition to new grants, proactive fiduciary activities are continued and include: inspecting or certifying 7,000 project sites, negotiating and resolving an estimated 275 ongoing conversion issues, closeout of 180 active grants, processing 513 grant billings, and the resolution of ten audit exceptions.

Performance Goals

Goal IIIc1. Partner with communities to protect, conserve, and/or rehabilitate public recreation lands and facilities

		Goals						
Target	Measure	FY 2000 Base	Annual FY 2003			Long-term FY 2005		
			Number	Increase	% Properties Protected	Number	Increase	% Properties Protected
Community recreation opportunities and resource conservation	Recreational properties assisted and protected by NPS programs*	32,738	35,542	8.6%	100%	38,656	18.1%	100%

*Includes Land and Water Conservation Fund, Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program, and Federal Lands to Parks Program.

State Conservation Grants Administration Performance Information

Performance Measures	FY 2001 Actual	FY 2002 Estimate	FY 2003 Estimate
Sites inspected and certified operational	414	7,000	7,000
Sites threatened	250	275	275
Active grants completed and closed out	25	180	180
New grants awarded	131	800	1600

Justification of FY 2003 Budget Request: State Conservation Grants Administration

Request Component	Amount
FY 2002 Enacted Budget	4,000
Programmatic Changes	
• State Conservation Grants Administration	+1,400
TOTAL, Program Changes	+1,400
Uncontrollable changes	No change
FY 2003 Budget Request	5,400
Net change	+1,400

State Conservation Grants Administration: +\$1.400 million, +4 FTE

The \$1.4 million increase for 2003 represents the administrative costs of implementing the State Grants portion of the **Cooperative Conservation Initiative (CCI)**. The CCI would provide \$48.6 million for grants to benefit the States for restoration, protection and enhancement of natural areas. Purposes would include but not be limited to habitat protection, wetlands, restoration, and riparian area protection. Projects will be nominated and administered through the Governors' State Liaison Officers in accordance with planning documents approved by the Secretary. Preference will be given to non-traditional methods of conservation and multiple partners. While the State is required to match the Federal funds at least one-to-one, States should require their partners to match their contribution. In contrast to the current State Conservation Grants program, these grants would require that any property acquired must have clear links to restoration goals. Acquisitions would, however need to be consistent with accessibility and meet purposes of perpetuity. Final recommendations on the applications will be made by the NPS Director with final review by the Secretary.

This request is part of the proposed Cooperative Conservation Initiative, of which \$50 million would be located within the State Conservation Grants program. An additional \$22 million is proposed to be funded under the Challenge Cost Share program within the Operation of the National Park System appropriation, bringing the NPS portion to \$72 million. The total Department of the Interior CCI Initiative is \$100 million, with the remaining \$28 million requested by Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management.